

REMARKS¹

In the final Office Action mailed July 3, 2008 ("Office Action"), the Examiner objected to claims 8 and 14 because of informalities; rejected claims 1, 3-8, and 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,766,471 to Ovshinsky et al. ("*Ovshinsky*") in view of "Optical Networks: A Practical Perspective, 2nd ed. to Ramaswami et al. ("*Ramaswami*"), U.S. Patent No. 5,777,383 to Stager et al. ("*Stager*"), and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0140081 to Chou et al. ("*Chou*"); and rejected claims 2 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,097,393 to Nelson et al. ("*Nelson*").

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, and 11-14. These amendments are fully supported by the specification and add no new matter. Applicants respectfully traverse the aforementioned rejections and request reconsideration based on the following remarks.

I. Examiner Interview

Applicants thank Examiner Kim and Supervisory Examiner Sedighian for the Examiner Interview on October 29, 2008 (the "interview"). During the interview, Applicants discussed features recited in claim 1 and similarly recited in the other pending claims that distinguish the claims over the cited references. Further, Applicants and the Examiners discussed amendments to the claims which would further distinguish the claims over the cited references. Agreement with respect to the claims was reached. Particularly, as noted in the Interview Summary dated October 31, 2008, "[p]articipants agree[d] about structural difference[s] between layers of *Ovshinsky* and Applicant's multi-layer printed circuit board." By this Amendment, Applicants

¹ The Office Action contains statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants do not necessarily agree with or acquiesce to the Examiner's characterization of the claims or the related art, even if those characterizations are not addressed herein.

have amended the claims in light of the interview and respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, are allowable over the cited references.

II. Claim Objections

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 8 and 14 because of informalities. In response, Applicants have amended claims 8 and 14 to address the Examiner's concerns. In particular, claims 8 and 14 have been amended to recite "shielding" rather than "isolating," as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants submit that the amendments to the claims are supported by the specification and add no new matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objections to claims 8 and 14.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 3-8, and 11-14

Claims 1, 3-8, and 11-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ovshinsky* in view of *Ramaswami*, *Stager*, and *Chou*. As discussed above, in the interest of expediting allowance of the pending claims, Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, and 11-14 in accordance with the amendments Applicants proposed during the Examiner Interview. Applicants respectfully that *Ovshinsky*, *Ramaswami*, *Stager*, and *Chou*, whether viewed separately or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the features recited in the amended claims and therefore are allowable. Claims 3-6 and 11-13 depend either directly or indirectly from one of claims 1, 7, and 8 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as the claim from which they depend. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3-8, and 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Claims 2 and 10

Claims 2 and 10

Claims 2 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ovshinsky* in view of *Ramaswami*, *Stager*, and *Chou* in further view of *Nelson*. Claims 2 and 10 depend from independent claims 1 and 8 respectfully, and therefore incorporate all of the elements of the claim from which they depend. As discussed above with respect to Examiner's rejection of claims 1 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103, *Ovshinsky*, *Ramaswami*, *Stager*, and *Chou*, fail to disclose or suggest each and every element recited in claims 1 and 8. Applicants submit that *Nelson* fails to cure the deficiencies of *Ovshinsky*. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2 and 10 are also allowable over the cited references and request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

IV. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 1-8 and 10-14 in condition for allowance. Applicants submit that the proposed amendments of claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, and 11-14 do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the entering of the Amendment would allow the Applicants to reply to the final rejections and place the application in condition for allowance.

Finally, Applicants submit that the entry of the amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicants therefore request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:  _____

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